

Israelis support land for peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thirty-eight per cent of Israelis support exchanging occupied territory for peace, while 25 per cent favour limited self-rule for Palestinians and 30 per cent want annexation, according to a public opinion poll published Friday. The poll, published in the daily *Maariv* newspaper, showed a significant drop in the number of Israelis advocating annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the start of the 14-month Palestinian uprising. In May 1987, before the start of the Palestinian rebellion, 45 per cent of the Israelis questioned favoured some form of annexation. Support for annexation declined to 42 per cent in May 1988 and dropped to 30 per cent in early 1989. The poll also showed a significant increase in the number of Israelis favouring "autonomy" for Palestinians, with eight per cent favouring such an arrangement in May 1987, 16 per cent in 1988 and 25 per cent in 1989. The number of Israelis advocating annexation after removing all Arab residents from the occupied territories dropped from 18 per cent in 1987 to 17 per cent in 1989, while those supporting annexation without citizenship for Palestinians was down from 19 per cent in 1987 to nine per cent in 1989, the poll said.

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Geagea ready to make 'concessions'

BEIRUT (R) — Rightist militia chief Samir Geagea said Friday he would withdraw his men from the streets of east Beirut to end bitter battles with the army in Lebanon's Christian enclave. "I am ready to pay any price to avoid a military showdown in the Christian areas," he said after four days of talks with Christian members of parliament, clerics and officials. The Maronite Christian church called the meeting to try to end fighting between Geagea's Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen and mainly-Christian Regular soldiers in east Beirut and areas to the north and northeast. Three days of street fighting and artillery bombardments tapered off into sporadic exchange of machinegun fire Friday after a truce was mediated by the church. An army lieutenant killed Friday was the 57th person to die in the battles, while 130 people have been wounded. Army commander General Michel Aoun, who did not attend the meeting, demands the withdrawal of LF militiamen from Beirut and an end to the collection of taxes by the militia. (see story below) A statement said the meeting set up a committee of deputies to try to heal political rifts.

Arab World hails ACC

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The proclamation in Baghdad Thursday of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) drew wide welcome in the Arab World Friday, with governments, newspapers and pan-Arab organisations describing the four-member sub-regional alliance as a landmark step towards wider Arab economic integration.

Jordanians from all walks of life joined the crescendo of congratulations pouring into the capitals of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — the founding members of the ACC — whose leaders met in the Iraqi capital Thursday in a mini-summit to announce the founding of

the mainly economic alliance. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted cables sent by representatives of numerous private and public organisations to the King as describing the birth of the alliance as a historic event in the course of his endeavours to achieve pan-Arab unity.

Among those sending the cables were Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, who also sent similar cables to the leaders of the three other states in the alliance. "The Jordanian people are overwhelmed with pride and joy over the achievement, which is in harmony with and in true commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt," the cable said.

Similar sentiments were voiced by Council of Arab Economic Unity Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim. The ACC is a major achievement, paving the way for a greater strength for the Arab Nation at large. Ibrahim was quoted as saying by Petra.

The heads of Jordanian professional and trade unions also voiced pride in the alliance and noted

(Continued on page 2)

Assad, Sheikh Jaber congratulate Al Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leaders of Syria and Kuwait Friday congratulated His Majesty King Hussein on the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King contacted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad over the phone and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Arab region, the current situation and the founding of the ACC in Baghdad Thursday.

Assad congratulated the King over the foundation of the ACC and said the council had his blessings, Petra said. The Syrian leader also voiced hope that the council would benefit the entire Arab Nation and contribute to the cause of Arab unity, the agency said.

The Kuwaiti congratulations to the King came in a cable sent by the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who wished the best for the council, which, he said, "is a step towards Arab integration and solidarity and unifying Arab efforts and positions in the service of the entire Arab Nation," Petra said.

Sheikh Jaber wished the four leaders of the ACC every success and inspiration to serve their own countries and fulfil their aspirations, Petra added.



North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak proclaim the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad Thursday (Petra photo)

Arab Maghreb Union founded in Marrakesh

MARRAKESH, Morocco (R) — Leaders of five Maghreb states proclaimed the Arab Maghreb Union Friday and signed its founding treaty setting up a new economic bloc.

The union, the second regional Arab grouping formed in two days, brings together the 62 million people of Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and extends 4,500 kilometres from the Atlantic to the East Mediterranean.

Modelled on the European Community (EC), the Maghreb's main trading partner, it is intended to boost trade and economic cooperation by allowing freedom of movement across frontiers.

Maghreb leaders also hope it will enable them to deal more effectively with the EC when the Europeans create a single market in 1992 on the other side of the Mediterranean.

The founding treaty, signed by the five heads of state in Marrakesh's city hall at the end of a two-day summit, creates:

A policy-making council of heads of state to meet every six months under an annual rotating chairman.

U.N. panel condemns Israeli practices

2 more killed, 12 injured in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian boy in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus Friday during protests sparked by the overnight death of a Palestinian wounded in an earlier clash, hospital officials said.

Witnesses said soldiers opened fire when demonstrators threw stones at them and also burned tyres in various parts of the town.

Hospital officials identified the boy as Imad Hassan Al Turk, 18, from the nearby village of Kufri Dik. At least 12 Palestinians were wounded, four seriously, by army gunfire in Nablus.

Those in serious condition included an 11-year-old girl shot in the head with a plastic bullet in the 'Ain Beita Alma refugee camp.

Hospital workers said soldiers entered the emergency room at Ittihad hospital in Nablus to search for demonstrators wounded in the clashes.

Nablus closed down on Friday

in an impromptu general strike after a local boy, shot by troops during a clash Thursday, died of chest wounds.

At least 389 Palestinians have been killed in the 14-months Palestinian uprising.

A military court in Ramallah jailed six Palestinians for six months each for stone-throwing and taking part in anti-Israeli demonstrations. A seventh Palestinian was jailed for 18 months for trying to steal a soldier's gun.

In Geneva, the U.N. Human Rights Commission condemned Israel Friday for the savage treatment, torture and killing of people in the occupied territories.

Only the United States, Canada and six European countries voted against the resolution which also called for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine which "constitutes a gross violation of human rights."

Diplomats said Arab delegations had toned down three resolutions condemning Israel to garner wide support but the United States and its allies said they still felt the language was too emotive and unbalanced.

The two other resolutions called on Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golani Heights and condemned Israel for denying Palestinians the privileges of an occupied people guaranteed under the 1949 Geneva conventions.

Among other things, the commission accused Israel of:

— Permanently crippling youths by breaking their bones;

— Savagely beating and maltreating women, causing abortions;

— Torturing detainees;

— Throwing gas bombs into houses, mosques and hospitals, causing death by suffocation;

— Imposing curfews and military sieges intended to destroy towns and villages.

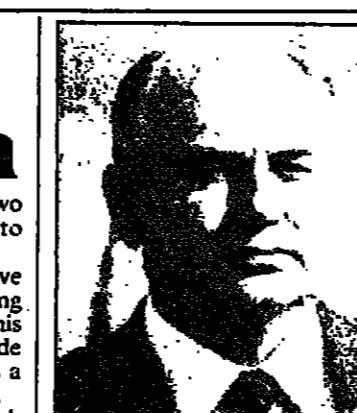
Aoun threatens to wipe out 'Lebanese Forces'

BEIRUT (AP) — Army commander General Michel Aoun threatened Friday to unleash an "apocalypse" to wipe out the "Lebanese Forces" militia if it refuses to accept his authority.

Aoun, who also heads the military cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, told a news conference: "We are responsible for the state, and they want a mini-state... those who do not abide by the law, I'll crush their heads."

"Otherwise, it will be total destruction. This time it will be apocalypse," he said, speaking at his heavily-guarded headquarters in the Yarze suburb, east of Beirut.

Army and Lebanese Forces representatives were due to meet later in the day at Sfeir's seat in



Gorbachev seeks help in Afghan settlement

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a personal appeal to U.S. President George Bush for cooperation in achieving a settlement to the Afghan conflict, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said Friday.

He told a news conference the Soviet Union had also appealed to a number of Western governments and regional organisations, including the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Arab League, for help in ending bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Bessmertnykh said some Soviet military advisors had remained in Afghanistan after the final pull out of Soviet troops Wednesday, but stressed that their number was "very small."

"Yesterday, the Soviet government appealed to a number of other governments and organisations which could play a positive role in bringing about a settlement in Afghanistan," he said.

He identified the governments as France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Iran, Pakistan and China.

The organisations contacted were the United Nations, through its Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the OIC, the Organisation of African Unity, the Arab League and the European Community.

In New Delhi, the chief Soviet negotiator on Afghanistan accused the United States of Friday of trying to plunge Afghanistan into a bloodbath following the Soviet withdrawal by continuing to aid rebels.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov criticised the decision by U.S. President George Bush to keep supplying the insurgents trying to overthrow the Afghan government.

Shevardnadze in Damascus with new Soviet proposal for peace

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in the Syrian capital Friday at the start of a 10-day Middle East tour expected to focus on efforts for peace in the region.

After two days of talks with Syrian leaders including President Hafez Al Assad, Shevardnadze is scheduled to visit Cairo, Anman, Baghdad and Tehran. He is due back in Moscow Feb. 27.

Shevardnadze said on arrival in Damascus that he had brought specific proposals on bringing peace to the region.

"These proposals are here in my suitcase. I will not reveal them now," he told reporters at Damascus airport.

"Of course, the nature of these conflicts is such that no dramatic effect can be expected in the course of the 10-day visit," he said.

TASS said the foreign minister aimed to help the search for a constructive peace settlement during his trip.

"The Soviet Union inseparably connected with that region geographically, historically and politically, should and can make its contribution to settling drawn-out and extremely painful conflicts and to establishing a lasting peace," he said.

Shevardnadze said he did not expect any dramatic results from his 10-day tour.

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TASS said the Soviet Union was particularly worried about the level of armaments in the Middle East.

About \$93 billion worth of arms were delivered to the countries in the past five years, equivalent to almost two-thirds of world arms spending.

"The strength of the armed forces in the Near and Middle East (including Israel and the Maghreb countries) is 4.5 million," TASS said. "Five thousand tanks are concentrated in the region."

"Chemical and bacteriological weapons have emerged and recently some countries have acquired medium-range missiles."

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Afghan Shura starts real work days late

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Four days after it was due to end, a dispute-ridden Afghan rebel council Friday started to work out an interim government it hopes will take power in Kabul following the departure of Soviet troops.

But delegates to the council, or Shura, which opened a week ago and was meant to last no more than three days, said many hurdles remained in the way of unity.

The way was cleared for work on the government, which many rebels and their Western backers hope will end the bloody Afghan war quickly, when a leading moderate guerrilla group ended a boycott.

Delegates said the Pakistan-based Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF) ended its boycott over how many Shura seats should be given to eight Tehran-based groups because they feared fundamentalists might win approval for their

vowed to fight on despite the departure of Soviet troops Wednesday after nine unsuccessful years of war.

Diplomats said it would provide an alternative to which Kabul's forces could desert and a credible negotiating group in any talks Moscow might want to set up.

The Shura's ability to achieve that kind of interim government was still far from clear.

Delegates said the fundamentalists so far had only presented the name of Ahmad Shah, a U.S.-educated engineer, for approval as head of the interim government approved.

"But obviously the fundamentalists were not prepared to give way and the ANLF risked being outflanked if they did not go back," a Western diplomat said.

An interim government of well-known Afghan personalities could undermine the Soviet-backed Kabul government that has

proposed interim government leader.

The end of the boycott appeared to leave the Iran-based groups out in the cold. They said they would not recognise any Shura decision taken in their absence, an attitude that would undermine the authority of any interim government approved.

"Our rules say the whole government should be presented, not just the name of the head of government," said a moderate delegate.

The bitter disputes over the Shura have upset guerrilla commanders.

Arab World hails ACC

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that the door was open for other Arab steps in "a wise and constructive move towards encompassing the Arab states in one strong, united nation."

The founding of the council came with the signing of a 17-point ACC Charter by the King, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Baghdad Thursday.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, in comments carried by Petra, compared the ACC with the Arab Maghreb Union — which was proclaimed at a summit of North African Arab leaders in Marrakesh, Morocco, Friday — and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). All three groupings, Klibi said, are new cornerstones in "the United Arab House" and will accelerate the Arab march towards further unity.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) summed up the major motivations and structure of the council by pointing out that the alliance would work towards "achieving integration in all production centres and coordination in the fields of economy, finance, industry, information, technology, health, tourism, residence and travel, and labour and social affairs."

Addressing the mini-summit on behalf of Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan, the King said the creation of the ACC was a miniature of pan-Arab unity.

"Feb. 16 marks the day when the great dream of the Arab World begin to be fulfilled, following years of setbacks and shocks, and a long series of challenges that continue to confront the Arab Nation," the King said.

The birth of the council, he said, reminds everyone in the Arab World of the fact that all Arabs belong to a united nation, with the same objectives and a common destiny. "The formation of the economic alliance slams the door on divisions and opens a wide gate for an Arab gathering based on mutual confidence and a strong resolve to embark on an era of construction and total integration," the King aid. It also further deepens the concept of collective action towards Arab unity, constant coordination, pooling of resources and potentials that can fulfil the Arab Nation's aspirations and safeguard its interests and benefit all Arab brothers, the King said.

The council, which is set up within the framework of the Arab League, serves as a nucleus for a wider Arab gathering and should

not be interpreted as a bloc, the King said. It should be seen as a "luminous line in a long chain of inter-Arab efforts for integration and not as an axis," the King stressed.

Pointing out that the council's membership remains open for all other Arab states, the King said the alliance would be "extended horizontally to embody new members and vertically to promote integration at all levels."

"We are living through an age of greater groupings of states and where we witness attempts by various countries to maintain a balance in protecting their interests and a degree of independence, since no single state, regardless of resources and power, can individually achieve a balance with another group of countries," the King said. He emphasised the need for countries to coexist with each other on a sound foundation of relations based on mutual confidence and common interests.

The King said the ACC "groups countries whose economies complement each other and which can attain a strong balance with other regional economic groups; it will remain open for other Arab countries which aim to achieve the common goal and strive to bring about pan-Arab unity."

At the outset of the Baghdad summit, Iraqi President Hussein described the ACC as a more ambitious economic grouping than the European Community.

The Iraqi leader will serve as chairman of the ACC for one year and the alliance's general secretariat will be based in Amman. Budget would be shared equally. The next meeting of the ACC heads of state will be held in Cairo in May, according to President Mubarak.

INA reported Thursday that King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz telephoned President Hussein to congratulate him on the formation of the council.

King Hussein returned to Amman Thursday evening from Baghdad to a tumultuous welcome. Cheering crowds waving flags and chanting slogans lined the streets of Amman from Maka airport to the Royal Palace to greet the King, who rode in a white open-top car after being received at the airport by senior government leaders and military and civil officials as well as dignitaries.

Celebrations marking the birth of the council were also held in many parts of Jordan, which, along with the three other member states, observed a national holiday Thursday.

Returning with the King was the Jordanian delegation that accompanied him to the Baghdad gathering. It included Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Idris Shuker, the King's political and special adviser, Adham Abu Odeh and Amman Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Zaid, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Information Minister Han Khasawneh.

The Arab information media were

unanimous in welcoming the new regional bloc. Many newspapers carried editorials praising the alliance and said it would contribute positively to Arab economic integration and advance efforts to achieve wider Arab unity and solidarity.

Abdul Jarrah, editor-publisher of Kuwait's Al Seyassah daily, praised the "lovely and realistic" pledges of the new efforts compared with the "crazy placards about Arab unity from the turbulent 1960s and 1970s."

"Thanks to the improvement in the performance of Arab leaders, the Arab World is nowadays pursuing the correct channels of cooperation. Possibly the most important of them is the economic sphere," Jarrah wrote.

The daily Al Ittihad in Abu Dhabi said the regional groupings "are a new start towards laying a firm base for Arab relations to achieve the common interest and eventually lead to the greater goal of total merger."

Amman Financial Market Acting Director General Ibrahim Bilbeisi said the creation of the ACC was the outcome of intense efforts made by King Hussein and the monarch's firm belief in the need for such strong inter-Arab alliance. "This economic alliance has become a national and pan-Arab initiative," Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i in an interview. "It is also a social and economic demand which has a high significance in the Arab economic integration process."

The new council, he said, will serve as an incentive to revive the money exchange market and enable it to play its role as a tributary to pooling national funds and savings and providing capital for industry.

Jordanian Contractors Association President Ali Abu Raghieb said the establishment of the ACC was the starting point towards achieving Arab unity. "The Arab countries have abundant resources, which should be mobilised and exploited to serve the Arab economy with a view to avoid reliance on foreign sources that drain Arab resources," he said.

He said the construction sector would be affected and would have an impact as a result of the creation of the alliance in view of its effects on other economic sectors, movement of capital and employment opportunities as well as transfer of technology.

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The new council, he said, will serve as an incentive to revive the money exchange market and enable it to play its role as a tributary to pooling national funds and savings and providing capital for industry.

Jordanian Contractors Association President Ali Abu Raghieb said the establishment of the ACC

National News

Abu Hassan welcomes declaration of ACC

By Ziad Al Shilleh
Al Ra'i Staff Reporter

AMMAN — President of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association Mamoud Abu Hassan said that the declaration of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in Baghdad Thursday demonstrates the spirit of responsibility the four Arab leaders enjoy.

He described it as a starting point toward achieving the pan-Arab goal of building stability and prosperity for the whole Arab nation.

Abu Hassan was speaking in an interview with the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times upon his return from Egypt where he headed the Jordanian side to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council, held in Luxor early last week.

Abu Hassan said that the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Businessmen's Council decided to hold a meeting in Amman late March to draw up a joint working paper on scopes of cooperation among the private sector institutions in the light of the establishment of the ACC.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

UNIVERSITY HOSTS U.K. THEATRE GROUP: The University of Jordan is co-sponsoring with the British Council a visit from Britain's famous London Shakespeare Group to perform the world's most famous love story: Romeo and Juliet. The performances of this play by William Shakespeare are intended for university and school students and take place on Feb. 21 and 22. (J.T.)

LUCKY WINNER: Othman Nashashibi was the lucky winner last week when he won an Apple Macintosh Plus Computer. The ceremony for drawing the prize was held at the Marriott Hotel and was sponsored by Ideal Systems Co., the Apple Authorised dealer in Jordan. (J.T.)

BA GETS NEW MANAGER: Geoffrey Rhodes has recently arrived in Amman to take up the appointment of area manager for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon based in Amman. He is 42 years old and married with two boys. He has spent seven years in USA. Prior to that had worked throughout the Middle East including five years in Egypt as customer services manager. (J.T.)

Duo Gerard present beautiful piano recital

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the Patronage of Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad, the National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre presented a beautiful piano recital Thursday Feb. 16, 1989, at the Philadelphia International Hotel, by Lucette and Jean-Claude Gerard.

MUSIC REVIEW

With a programme which included works by Claude Debussy, Gabriel Faure, Emmanuel Chabrier in the first part, and Maurice Ravel in the second, the selection of the Duo Gerard proved perfectly coherent — exclusively French compositions and spanning the end of the 19th century till the beginning of the 20th. However the distinguishing mark of the Duo Gerard is their four-hand playing which has become a rarity nowadays. In addition to being particularly spectacular to see, four-hand piano playing takes the instrument to orchestral heights. The already extraordinary and well-known polyphonic capabilities of the keyboard, when played by one musician, are even more impressive when four hands are at work on the instrument. The first part of the recital opened with a "Petite Suite" by Debussy, "Dolly" by Gab-

riel Faure and "Cortège Burlesque" by Chabrier. After the intermission, Lucette and Jean-Claude Gerard started with Ravel's "Ma Mère l'Oye" (Mother Goose), a series of short tales, the most beautiful being "Le Jardin Feerique." The famous "Rhapsodie Espagnole," in four parts, ended with a magnificent "Feria" (Fair).

To end the concert, and before an encore which brought the duo to play a charming "Dance Slave" by Dvorak, Lucette and Jean-Claude gave the best of their art with "La Valse" by Ravel. Excellent and very expressive work by Lucette Gerard on the "Treble" side of the Keyboard, marvellous harmonies of Ravel (his trademark) made "La Valse" the finest moment of the recital.

In spite of the fact that the hall at the Philadelphia was not particularly a concert hall, the acoustics were satisfactory enough, but whether due to the room's specifications, to the instrument itself or to the performers style, one could feel a lack of dynamic expression (difference or contrast between the "piani" and the "forte") throughout the performance, except for "La Valse" which was almost a perfection.

Both members of the Duo Gerard come from southern France and have studied at the conservatories of Nimes and Marseille. They decided years ago to go on a solo career, have won numerous prizes and play in France as well as abroad.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.
- A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.
- An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Luz Marina Robertson at the Petra Bank Gallery.

CONCERT

- A concert by the German chamber music ensemble "Consor- tium Classicum" featuring works by Haydn, Weber, Hummel and Mozart at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- A poetry recital by Dr. Jamil 'Alloush at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.



Public Security Department Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Thursday receives a group of students from the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

Police work includes participation in community development — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali received in his office Thursday a group of distinguished students from the University of Jordan and briefed them on the department's development and programme to ensure security in the Kingdom.

Majali spoke in detail about the PSD's comprehensive security programme initiated in the Kingdom three years ago.

He said that the programme aims to promote the concept of

police work to encompass duties other than chasing criminals and referring law offenders to court authorities.

According to the new programme police work, "involves active participation by police personnel in social and economic development of the local communities," Majali noted.

The PSD is enlisting the participation of university educated men and women to help carry out this important programme and is using the most up-to-date equipment and apparatus in the process of maintaining and promoting security," Majali pointed out.

He said that the PSD has so far recruited and trained more than 700 university graduates and 4,000 school graduates for this purpose over the past three years.

The PSD, he added, is going ahead with plans to set up comprehensive security centres around the Kingdom and plans to set up 57 centres in Amman and the various governorates of the Kingdom.

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The PSD is enlisting the participation of university educated men

Jordan Times

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A welcome guest

SOVIET Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's upcoming visit to Amman and other Arab capitals in the Middle East would provide the missing link in the flurry of diplomatic activity centred on the Arab-Israeli conflict. As the parties to the Middle East conflict have yet to hear the last word from Moscow on the conceptual framework for the resolution of the Palestinian dispute, the working visit of Mr. Shevardnadze to the region would indeed help shape the anticipated settlement.

To begin with the Soviet Union has many valuable cards in its hands and its leverage with Israel is no small matter. Many silent bridges have been constructed of late between Moscow and Tel Aviv. The rapport between the two countries has been burgeoning constantly on more than one level. It is no secret that Israel seeks many things from the Soviet Union and most probably will be willing to pay for them in due course. After all this is the international game of politics. This is not to mention that the Eastern Bloc record of relations with Israel in the early years was impeccable, as far as Israel was concerned, and more forthcoming than that with the Western countries. Likewise, the Soviet Union is a good friend of the Arabs and stood by them in times of need on more than one occasion. By flexing its political muscles in the area, whether on the Arab or Israeli side, the Soviet Union stands to energise the peace process in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Seen against this backdrop, the belated working visit of Mr. Shevardnadze to the Arab capitals in the Middle East is a strong boost to the genuine search for a settlement of the Palestine conflict and all the other conflicts that ensued therefrom. Needless to add, Moscow's position in the Middle East, and indeed worldwide, has been fortified by its withdrawal from Afghanistan. Its involvement there bled its resources and diverted its attention from other pressing international issues. The first beneficiary of this Soviet disengagement from Afghanistan should be the Middle East region and in particular the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The governments and peoples of this area expect now a concentrated effort by the Soviet Union to lend support to the momentum achieved thus far in the peace process, in the wake of the Palestinian uprising, Jordan's decision to cut off administrative and legal ties with the West Bank and the commencement of the American-Palestinian dialogue. Therefore it is in order to say welcome to the Soviet foreign minister and express the hope that his visit would be followed by other visits in the future.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) is the theme of editorials in all Arabic daily newspapers Friday. Al Ra'i daily said that 80 million Arabs living in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen were rejoicing on Thursday over the proclamation of the new economic alliance that would take their countries a further step towards total unity. Indeed, Feb. 16, 1989 was a historic day for the Arab Nation; and the 80 million Arabs have all the right to celebrate the event which has been inspired by the Arab countries and become a reality at the hands of the four leaders, the paper noted. It said that the meeting in Baghdad represented a miniature of the greater pan-Arab unity which is still to come and which could become a reality any moment opening further prospects for the future. The proclamation of the economic alliance in Baghdad the paper concluded was a national triumph, further deepening the meaning of pan-Arab solidarity and paving the way for more serious contribution on the part of the four countries towards a stronger Arab Nation.

The editor of Al Ra'i daily dwells on the Arab Cooperation Council that groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — describing it as an initial step leading towards an all-out unity among the Arabs. Rakan Al Majali gives credit to His Majesty King Hussein who, he says, considers the formation of the economic alliance as a unity of cells within the one united body of the Arab Nation. This alliance comes at a crucial moment in Arab history and at a time when the Arabs are in dire need of united action in the face of the common challenges, the writer says. The alliance which now embodies Baghdad, Sanaa, Cairo and Amman will tomorrow encompass Riyadh, Damascus and Algiers; and later will group the whole Arab family, the writer notes. Indeed Arab unity began with the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad in 1978 the writer concludes; and was followed by the Amman summit of 1987 which paved the way for consensus and agreement among the Arabs, and will sooner or later be crowned with another summit in Riyadh to put finishing touches to an all-out unity among the Arabs.

Al Dustour daily said that the large enthusiastic crowds that thronged the streets and the squares of Amman on Thursday to welcome King Hussein back home from the historic meeting in Baghdad is a clear manifestation of the joy created in the hearts of the Jordanian people over the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council. The people of Jordan are overwhelmed with delight and happiness over the event, which is indeed a miniature unity, paving the way for a greater united nation which is aspired by millions of Arab people, the paper noted. It said that the formation of the new alliance can be rightly considered as a nucleus for the aspired unity specially now that the Arabs are grouped into three blocs, similar in form and united in purpose. Economic integration within the Arab World is indeed the first step towards the attainment of unity which can come through stages and through resolve and determination by the Arab people and their leaders, the paper added. It said that the new alliance is unlike previous attempts at achieving unity between a number of Arab states which failed due to lack of proper step-by-step preparations and planned action.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the scenes in Amman streets on Thursday represent a true cohesion between the Jordanian leadership and people and reflect the people's great love for their monarch. The Jordanian family is rejoicing over the King's achievement that resulted in the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad; and the cheering and dancing in the streets stand witness for the great respect for the leader and his accomplishments, the paper noted.

Palestinians determined to fight despite hardships

By Gail Fitter
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians fighting against Israeli occupation are suffering from economic sanctions, unemployment and a drop in the value of their money.

But they are determined to continue the struggle to create an independent Palestinian economy.

"The intifada created a dream and until the Palestinians achieve their dream which is an independent Palestinian state and full rights, they'll keep going," the president of the General Federation of West Bank Trade Unions, Shaher Saed, said.

Already hard hit by Israeli taxes, frequent general strikes and high unemployment, Palestinians are now facing further economic hardship due to a substantial drop in the value of the Jordanian dinar against the dollar over the past year.

"We are going through very hard economic times but everybody is willing to sacrifice," Marwan Amad, head of the Arab Hotel Association has said.

Saed said unemployment had

reached 39 per cent in the West Bank and Gaza compared to 15 per cent in December 1987, when the revolt in the Israeli-occupied territories began.

About 150,000 Palestinians worked in Israel before the uprising and that figure was now down to 60,000, he said.

An Israeli labour ministry spokesman denied the figures, saying unemployment in the territories was less than two per cent while the number of Palestinians working in Israel remained unchanged at 110,000.

Many Palestinians have quit their jobs in Israel and Israeli employers have hired other workers to replace West Bank and Gaza labourers who failed to show up on general strike days.

The strikes called by the underground leaders of the uprising have also badly hurt shop owners, many of whom have closed their stores indefinitely.

Saed said the drop in the Jordanian dinar has hurt Palestinians in the territories more than the Jordanians themselves because there is no government control over the exchange rates.

The dinar is a widely-used currency in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip.

In an effort to reduce Palestinian dependence on the Israeli economy, the leaders of the revolt have called on residents of

the territories to boycott Israeli products and buy goods manufactured in the occupied areas.

The bank of Israel said last week that Israel's trade surplus in

goods and services exported to the West Bank and Gaza fell to \$56 million in 1988 from \$174 million the previous year, while its imports from the territories dropped from \$304 million in

1987 to \$170 million in 1988. The West Bank economy from Israeli measures and to make it independent. Now after the intifada, the Palestinian economy has become stronger," Saed said.

Rumours across the Khyber Pass

By Tariq Ali

FOR THE last ten years, Islamabad has been the organising centre of the campaign to get the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan. Now that the bulk of the Red Army has left Kabul, Islamabad is plagued by uncertainties. From Kabul itself, there are strong rumours reaching the Pakistani capital which suggest that the Afghan army will stage a coup, topple Najibullah, and offer a deal to the Mujahideen commanders in the field. The spectre which haunts the Pakistani foreign office however, is that of an internecine conflict.

When I spoke to the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, earlier this week, she told me that she favoured an "interim government which had the backing of all the different groups ... the important thing is to avoid any more bloodshed."

If General Zia had still been alive and in power in Islamabad, there is little doubt that he would have been pressing for one particular solution in Afghanistan: the victory of his own special faction, the clerico-fascists of the Hezbi-i-Islami under the leadership of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. In order to ensure such a victory, Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) would have provided the necessary manpower in the shape of Pakistani soldiers masquerading as "irregulars" or "volunteers". In return for all this, Hekmatyar had boasted that Kabul would be renamed Ziaabad and the country used as a base to "liberate the Muslims of Soviet Central Asia."

This plan, the last half of which

was always pure fantasy, has now had to be discarded.

Benazir Bhutto's election victory irritated the ISI and Hekmatyar, even though the new government has found it virtually impossible to make any substantial shift as far as Afghanistan is concerned. It was too late. Everything was already in motion, and it was not considered productive to throw a frozen fish straight into a hot frying pan.

Zia's removal, however, did prompt a modification of the plan, largely under Washington's influence. The consensus, with the exception of some die-hard elements within the ISI, now appears to be to give the moderate elements within the Mujahideen camp a much bigger share in a future government, in order to prevent a clean sweep by the fundamentalists.

Leaving aside the differences between the Iranian-supported groups and the Peshawar Alliance, there is an additional problem for the West. The Mujahideen commanders in the field might not relish the idea of handing over power to those who did a great deal of talking, but little else.

In this regard, Robert Flaten, Director of Afghanistan Affairs in the U.S. State Department, suggested some weeks ago that the new regime "will be an Afghan government, which will be different than any other government, anywhere in the world ... it probably will be a rather extensively federalised system, in which substantial powers will remain in the provinces and various regions." This suggests that Washington would accept a de facto segmentation of the country, under differing Mujahideen warlords. But such an arrangement begs an obvious question. Who will keep the peace between them?

When I asked Bhutto whether there were any guarantees of a return to stability, even after the fall of the PDPA, she was not particularly sanguine: "You've touched upon the nerve centre. This is the reason why it is important that instead of encouraging one group or another, the Afghans reach a method to find their own consensus. Only a consensual arrangement can survive."

Ever since the Soviet intervention in 1978, the situation in Afghanistan has dominated Western perceptions of Pakistan. It is unlikely that Zia would have lasted as long as he did without the presence of the Red Army in the neighbouring country.

Sadly, it is unlikely that the Soviet withdrawal will, of itself, remove the Afghan factor from Pakistani politics. The three million Afghan refugees will not leave Pakistan unless they are convinced that peace has really returned and there is a massive effort by the West and the USSR to reconstruct the country's economy. Benazir Bhutto agonises over uncertainties and with good reason. If a new civil war erupts, this time between different factions of the Mujahideen, it is bound to spill over into Pakistan.

The grim spectre of Lebanon confronts a regime trying desperately to democratise the country. If there is continuing unrest in Afghanistan and it leads to open clashes in Pakistani cities, the uniformed politicians inside the GHQ in Rawalpindi are unlikely to remain passive spectators.

The mood in Pakistan is one of prudent optimism. Perestroika will take a long time, but glasnost is already there and the citizens are beginning to breathe again. Women's rights are being restored. Drug barons are being extradited to the United States. The state television network reports the speeches and activities of the opposition: the press is enjoying a freedom which has always been in short supply in the country. The fundamentalists are angry that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is in power, but apart from abuse they have nothing concrete to offer. Far more ominous is the resistance the new regime is encountering from within the civilian bureaucracy and elements within the ISI. Civil service sabotage is, of course, not unique to Pakistan, but it takes on a sinister hue when accompanied by black propaganda which reassures the faithful that "this regime will only last another few months."

On the international level there is a great deal of goodwill for the new government. A visiting Swedish delegation led by a cabinet minister told Bhutto that they were delighted at the restoration of democracy. She thanked them for providing asylum to members of her party during the cruel years of Zia's dictatorship. The Soviet foreign minister told her that his country wanted to restore normal relations with Pakistan and invited her to visit the USSR. Most important of all, the Indian prime minister responded warmly to her proposals for bilateral agreements during the recent South Asian summit and Arab leaders

encouraged her to move towards a detente with India. All these moves are tied to loosening the grip of the army on Pakistan's political life and economy. A great deal is at stake and veteran democrats in Pakistan stress that this is the country's last chance.

If the Afghan groups which the West, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have been arming

for the last ten years now turn these weapons against each other, they will, without doubt, destabilise the fragile democracy that exists in Pakistan, but they could unwittingly do much more damage. For if chaos returns to Pakistan, there will be many hawks in Delhi who will suggest that caution should be thrown to the winds. — The Guardian.

NATO gears up for table-top war with Moscow

By Richard Balmforth
Reuters

BRUSSELS — It may start with a crisis in the Soviet Bloc and end with NATO rolling out its nuclear weapons against the Warsaw Pact. When it's all over, Western officials go home, well satisfied with the lessons they have learnt.

It is completely fictitious, and not a shot will be fired in real life.

The "war" is the 10th Wintex, which is held every two years, it means two weeks of erratic shift-work, late-night calls and round-the-clock crisis meetings.

Thrusting thoughts of East-West arms cuts firmly into the background, thousands of officials from 14 allied countries will act through the roles that fate could hand them in the build-up to world war three.

For two weeks from February 24, they will play out an imaginary scenario directed from NATO headquarters in Brussels, go through procedures to mobilise "blue" forces and bring in reinforcements as conflict approaches.

Officials refuse to discuss the pre-scripted scenario or the origins of the fictional crisis that leads to war.

It is a purely procedural exercise based on a hypothetical scenario with no relation to present events," an alliance spokesman said.

A NATO insider put it more bluntly. "There's some foul-up in Eastern Europe. Both sides face off and then go to war."

Agree on the right course of action.

At NATO headquarters, diplomatic delegations man telephone hotlines to their political leaders back home. Message traffic flows thick and fast as the crisis grows.

National governments hold simulated emergency cabinet meetings. At NATO headquarters, Secretary-General Manfred Woerner presides over mock sessions of the North Atlantic Council meeting almost permanently.

Wintex directors at NATO headquarters play the "orange" enemy forces, dictating developments in the scenario by injecting new enemy action at every turn that jerks the participants along a chain of events to war.

France, outside NATO's military structure, does not take part. Greece also boycotts the exercise.

As the West reaches a point of general alert, Galvin takes over command of the national armies of member states to direct defences — as he would in reality.

Decisions would be made to rush U.S. forces to beleaguered Europe by land and sea and take pre-positioned stocks of hardware out of mothballs.

Under NATO thinking, allied forces manage to hold the line until, faced with unacceptable losses and exhausted fire-power, the supreme allied commander asks the political authorities to release nuclear weapons.

NATO, which reserves the right to "go nuclear" first, wages selective use of a nuclear weapon against a Warsaw Pact military installation to show determination to escalate an invading forces withdrawal.

The nightmare always has a fairy-tale ending that justifies NATO strategy. "We go nuclear, the enemy understands, we solve and withdraws from our territory," an official said.



Features



Victims of the "butterfly-bombs" and the small mines



A novelty kid at 75

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

LONDON — In the down-to-earth manner of someone who has never disavowed his humble American roots, Larry Adler finds the word "harmonica" pretentious.

It's "toofee-nosed," says the American maestro of the mouth organ, using a Britishism picked up during the 40 years he has lived in London.

So mouth organ it is, and Adler is still its most famous practitioner in a career that put him on the stage at 14, took him to the pinnacle of fame in the United States, dragged him through the nightmare of the 1950s anti-Communist witchhunts and finally deposited him in England.

One is enough

"You're a novelty, kid," he recalls the American singer Rudy Vallee telling him when he was starting out. "Save your money because once they hear you, that's it. They'll never want to hear it again."

At 75, Adler is still something of a novelty for making an art

form out of an instrument that he says "has never gotten over its street raganuflin connotations."

Music remains his chief pursuit, with sidelines in reviewing restaurants, telling jokes, puncturing pomposity and writing quirky letters to the satirical journal *Private Eye* — which he lists in his who's who as his "obsession."

Adler's talents were on display again at the beginning of February, the night before his 75th birthday, when threw his own celebration concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

"I couldn't get the Albert for the 10th so I took the 9th, and I hope I'll get so many encores that the concert will go past midnight and it'll become my birthday," he says.

"I don't deny that it's a self-indulgent exercise, but I don't become 75 all that often."

Sitting in his apartment on a quiet London street, Adler looks as fit and wiry as in the early photographs of the young man hunched over his mouth organ.

Tatiana

He cycles, plays tennis, and after two divorces and four chil-

dren, says his latest flame is a Peruvian restauranteur named Tatiana — "a great lady. She makes me laugh more than anybody I know... she won't admit she's my fiancee but she is."

His repertoire ranges from Gershwin to Bach, Jazz to classical Spanish music — result, says, of hearing Al Jolson and Rachmaninoff when he was 5 and deciding that "I wanted to be both of them."

As a child he studied piano at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore but got expelled for playing "Yes, we have no bananas today," to annoy a pompous music examiner.

Then he read about a mouth organ band being formed in Baltimore by Fred Sonnen of Hohner, the German mouth organ manufac-

turer.

"I'd never touched a mouth organ but it sounded interesting," he says. "I was a natural musician. I had a helluva good ear, and the mouth organ keyboard is very easy to play."

At 14 he ran away to New York to elbow his way into show business. "You stink," his first auditioner told him, so he sneaked into Rudy Vallee's dressing room and finagled a spot on the crooner's talent show. His performance won him a contract to tour with a band.

Adler gave his first classical recital in London in 1936, and his first symphony performance in Sydney, Australia in 1939. For the first time, audiences were hearing Bach, Ravel and Gershwin's "Rhapsody in blue" through a new, highly evocative medium.

But for a long time he had "a kind of guilty feeling". Was he a musician, still a novelty? In 1952, he says, he got his answer.

Wildlife gets a fighting chance

By Laurinda Keys
The Associated Press

SKUKUZA, South Africa — An American inventor and wildlife researchers at Kruger National Park say they have achieved a major breakthrough in conservation — an immunisation system that can stop epidemics in large, free-ranging mammals.

The bio-bullet, a vaccine in a biodegradable bullet that can be fired by air rifle from a helicopter chasing stampeding herds, has been used for three years to immunise animals ranging from warthogs to elephants against diseases that have, in the past, nearly wiped out species in the park.

Anthrax is endemic in the northern part of 2-million-hectare Kruger, an area where 200 rare roan antelope like to roam. Before 1970, when the park began an inoculation programme by firing disposable darts left on the ground, the time and cost of manufacturing the syringes.

If we have another major outbreak, we have a method now of controlling the epidemic. Before, we could do nothing but count the carcasses," said Valerius de Vos, head of research at Kruger. "I consider this a major breakthrough... it will be used widely in the future."

How widely depends to some extent on politics. While South Africa's wildlife management programme is regarded as the best on the continent, its experts seldom visit other African countries where similar problems exist. Black African governments restrict contact with South Africa because of apartheid, its system of racial separation.

"It's a pity. The rest of Africa needs us and we need them. We've got expertise and we need interaction," De Vos said.

For instance, endangered black rhinos are increasing in South Africa and declining elsewhere. Due to South African conservation efforts, the white rhino was removed from the endangered category worldwide.

Representatives of private

wildlife groups sometimes cross the borders, and exchanges take place through the mail, but many western universities won't even send copies of research papers to Kruger's scientists.

De Vos said the air rifle that fires the bio-bullet can be locally produced, but not the bullet itself. He worries that sanctions could disrupt the immunisation programme.

There also has been talk of banning shipments of four-wheel drive vehicles to South Africa from Japan, because they have military potential.

"That's going to affect us," De Vos said. "I don't know what we're going to do, but I guess we can keep going with two-wheel drive vehicles."

In 1973, De Vos and his team began inoculating large mammals by firing dart-syringes from the air. Disadvantages included large numbers of plastic darts left on the ground, and the time and cost of manufacturing the syringes.

De Vos contacted American inventor Fred Paul, who had developed the bio-bullet and used it to vaccinate livestock and wild bighorn sheep. Paul came to Kruger Park to assist the research, which included numerous test firings to determine the right size and shape to use.

Cellulose Polymer

The bullet can be fired rapidly, allowing marksmen to inoculate about 1,500 animals a day with 80 per cent accuracy. The material, a cellulose polymer, dissolves inside the animal, releasing the vaccine.

That kind of volume and accuracy is "impressive, to say the least... that's a lot of animals," said Maurice Lefranc, Director of the Institute for Wildlife Research, a branch of U.S. National Wildlife Federation.

The South African park lends itself to such an effort because it has wide open spaces and concentrations of animals, Lefranc said.

The project illustrates the place that South African wildlife researchers have in the forefront of species preservation and the

Helping children of war

By Girard C. Steichen
The Associated Press

OBERHAUSEN — In a courtyard outside a modest physical therapy ward, 8-year-old Mohammad Nazir practices hairpin turns at top speed in his new wheelchair. Six months ago, doctors amputated both of his legs above the knees after he was wounded in fighting in Afghanistan.

"He's one of the lucky ones," says Wolfgang Mertens, who works for a West German foundation that helps young victims of war.

"After more surgery, Mohammad will someday be able to walk again with the help of artificial legs," Mertens said. "Many of the other children have serious bone infections. Many will lose more limbs."

Mazir is among 46 Afghan children who have been flown to West Germany within the past month for treatment with the help of Friedensdorf International, a group that has been helping children wounded in wars for more than 20 years.

Thirty-one badly injured Afghan children arrived in West Germany Feb. 2 after a two-day ordeal that Friedensdorf Direc-

tor Ronald Gegenfurtner described as "one of the most difficult we have ever made."

The children and their four guardians arrived at Frankfurt airport on an airline passenger jet after stops in India, Kuwait and Switzerland.

"It was the only way to get them out," said Gegenfurtner, referring to the necessity of booking seats on a jetliner ill-suited to accommodate wounded children.

There was no space for stretchers and the children could only lie as flat as the seatbacks would allow, Gegenfurtner said.

"These children have suffered terribly and there are thousands more just like them in Afghanistan in desperate need of help," Gegenfurtner told the Associated Press from his office at Friedensdorf, or peace village, on the outskirts of Oberhausen.

Friedensdorf was founded in 1967 and immediately began helping children wounded in the

Vietnam war.

After they are released from the hospital, the children convalesce at peace village, a cluster of cottages and rehabilitation facilities on a quiet, green hill outside industrial Oberhausen.

They were taken to hospitals across West Germany immediately after their arrival. Their treatment is paid for by donations. Many doctors perform surgery without charge, Gegenfurtner said.

But said they were working under impossible conditions.

"The doctors there are working around the clock. But they can't create antibiotics by magic."

He said crates of antibiotics are stacked up and idle at Bojder staging points, unable to be delivered because of the fighting and bureaucratic delays.

The Afghan children were

not taken to hospitals across West Germany immediately after their arrival.

Their treatment is paid for by donations. Many doctors

perform surgery without charge, Gegenfurtner said.

"They had been here too long

and their families were scattered or missing," he said.

Now, almost all of the children

brought to West Germany are sent home after they recover, Gegenfurtner said.

The foundation has also helped

children from Lebanon, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Pakistan and several African nations, Gegenfurtner said.

Medical and food supplies are

also sent to those countries, he



An Afghan doctor attending to children in Afghanistan

have not proven a link.

Friedensdorf has also helped several Vietnamese children begin new lives in West Germany because it was impossible to send them home after the war ended in 1975, Gegenfurtner said.

"But we said the children often teach adults about the strengths needed to help each other recover."

"I was at a loss at first when two children awoke from the anesthetic and discovered they had lost limbs," Mertens said.

"After the initial shock, they started telling each other jokes to get them through the tough first phase."

"Despite everything they've been through, they have an immense will to live and to enjoy life," Mertens said.

"Are they depressing the prey in large numbers or living in harmony with their environment?" Are questions Mills wants to answer.

Although Anthrax and foot-and-mouth disease are natural African diseases, they are controlled because it would take 20 to 30 years for the herds to recover from an epidemic.

"Drastic fluctuations in animal populations are part of nature, but we can't afford that," said De Vos. "We call (shoot) buffalo and elephant, and sometimes hippo. These are species that can outgrow the system. The rest of the animals are controlled by the system."

"Drought, predation, disease all act as controls. For the buffalo and elephant, the main predator in the past was man. We have taken man out of it, so now we're bringing man back in, in a controlled way."

The main form of research at Kruger is surveillance — taking aerial photos of vegetation, counting animals, taking blood levels of elephants to see if car exhaust affects them. The data is used to eliminate the tall grass. Instead, they decided to kill lions and hyenas that preyed on the wildebeest.

To prevent the need for such action in the future, Gus Mills, the chief predator researcher, and his team spend two weeks at a time following lions, cheetah and leopards to monitor their eating habits.

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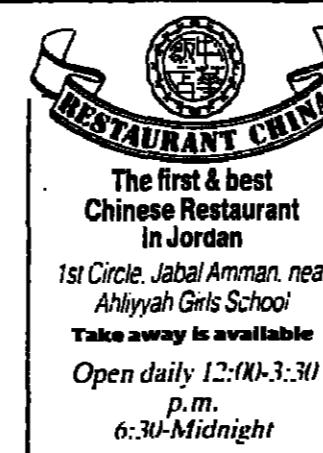
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Nazer urges U.S. not to tax oil imports

OKLAHOMA CITY (R) — The United States would only hurt its own economy in the long run if it imposed a fee on oil imports, the Saudi Arabian oil minister said Thursday.

"Fees and taxes distort economic realities and create an illusion of protection and security," Hisham Nazer told a group of Oklahoma business leaders. "They may give short-term benefits but guarantee long term harm. I believe that fee is likely to amount to an administrative nightmare, subsidise inefficiency and do little or nothing to promote oil and gas production here in Oklahoma or elsewhere."

Nazer also urged cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers to stabilise prices. "We in Saudi Arabia are firm in our belief that sharp fluctuations in oil prices and volumes of production and exports are not good for us," he said. "No single country can control the market."

Nazer said Saudi Arabia was willing to cooperate with other producers if they in return help. "I would simply like to reiterate that Saudi Arabia will strictly abide by the current OPEC production agreement, provided other producers do the same, and hopefully non-OPEC producers cooperate," he said.

Analysts expect no firm action by non-OPEC states

Meanwhile, oil analysts said that non-OPEC oil producing countries appear willing to curb their output to support OPEC efforts to stabilise the oil price but no firm action is expected when their experts meet in London this week.

"There is a willingness to make output adjustments, but there hasn't been enough time to nail everything down," said Jeremy Hudson, an analyst at Shearson Lehman Hutton.

The issue is to be discussed at the Feb. 21 non-OPEC meeting but any firm decision is likely to be left to oil ministers from the

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC states who could meet in March.

"I am not expecting anything concrete to emerge in the way of cuts (at this week's meeting)," said Mehdi Varzi, an oil analyst at brokerage Kleinwort Benson Securities.

At a meeting of both sides on Jan. 26, the non-OPEC experts said they backed OPEC's \$18 a barrel price target and agreed to recommend "necessary cooperative measures" to their governments.

Egypt and Oman said they would consider reducing output as part of an overall move to cut production by non-OPEC countries.

Press reports quoted a delegate to the Jan. 26 meeting as saying non-OPEC producers would

offer a 300,000 barrel-per-day cut in London this week.

But a spokesman at the Mexico's energy ministry said he had not heard any specific volume being mentioned and added that this week's meeting would only discuss the percentage shares of any output cuts that each country might adopt.

"The experts will discuss percentages rather than quantities and no firm decision is likely to be taken for the moment," he said.

Technical experts from non-OPEC producers Egypt, Mexico, Oman, Angola, China, Colombia and Malaysia are expected to attend the London meeting. Observers are expected from the Soviet Union, North Yemen, Norway, the U.S. oil producing states of Alaska and Texas and the Canadian province of

Alberta.

Indonesian minister affirms adherence to output target

In Jakarta, Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said Thursday that OPEC did not exceed its production target in January, output ranging around the 18 million barrel a day mark.

He told reporters the figure came from an OPEC meeting in Vienna.

"I have a report that OPEC's production is still on the safe level, that is around 18 million and for sure not as high as 19 million," Ginanjar said.

"So it's not true that OPEC has exceeded its target output," he said.

OPEC in November set a production ceiling of 18.5 million

barrels per day in the first half of 1989, aiming for a price of \$18 per barrel. Market rates are around that, but market rumours say some OPEC members are over producing.

Indonesia Thursday set the price of its March delivery of the key Minas crude oil to Japan, its major customer, at \$17.56 per barrel, unchanged from February.

Ginanjar stressed the importance of action on the part of oil-producing countries outside of OPEC to restrict output in the second quarter when demand usually weakens as industrialised nations use up winter stocks.

Ginanjar said he saw a positive attitude among non-OPEC countries towards stabilising the oil price. "If they cooperate, the prices will not be bad in 1989," he said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Syrian premier opens new oil field

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi has officially opened a new oil field increasing his country's production by 100,000 barrels a day (b/d). The new field brings Syria's oil output to about 350,000 b/d. Zu'bi said at the inauguration ceremony near the eastern city of Dayr Al Zawr that two more fields in the area of the new Omar field were being developed, which would add another 100,000 b/d to Syrian output. Hinting that there may be as yet undiscovered oilfields in Syria, he said in a copy of a speech obtained by Reuters that there were "other places of hope... on... the geological map." Syria, a member of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, began oil production in the late 1960s.

NTT expands computer memory

TOKYO (AP) — Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co. (NTT) has said it has developed relatively compact machinery to produce a powerful light that could be used to make computer microchips with huge memory capacity. NTT, Japan's giant telecommunications company, said the development could lead to using beams of light to etch ultra-fine circuits for chips that would have 100 megabit memories. The most advanced chips now available commercially have one megabit of memory. Four-megabit and 16-megabit semiconductors have been demonstrated but are not yet in general production. NTT said it had achieved its research goal of extracting a type of light it calls SOR, for synchronised orbital radiation, from a storage ring with a superconducting magnet to bend a stream of electrons that had been accelerated to near the speed of light. The storage ring measured 2.5 by eight metres, about one-fifth the size of the equipment it previously used. One megabit is 1,048,576 items of memory, sometimes equated to 62 typed pages.

Canadian banks raise prime rate

TORONTO (R) — Major Canadian banks boosted their prime lending rate to 12.75 per cent Thursday, the sixth increase since last spring, when the benchmark rate stood at 9.75 per cent. The action was led by the Bank of Montreal. The rise in rates is seen as part of an inflation-fighting strategy of Bank of Canada Governor John Crow. Canadian inflation is currently running at an annual rate of about 4.0 per cent. Other major banks, including the Bank of Nova Scotia and Toronto Dominion, followed Bank of Montreal's lead, and the rest of the industry was expected to go along with the increase. An increase in the prime rate normally paves the way for rises in mortgage and other consumer lending rates. One bank spokesman said an announcement on increases in other lending rates was expected soon. The prime rate is traditionally the rate a bank charges its best corporate customers.

Kuwait, USSR sign oil agreement

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, a key member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, signed Thursday an agreement to pursue joint oil projects in the two countries. Soviet Oil Industry Minister Vasily Dinkov told reporters after the signing: "There has been an agreement to study possible joint ventures.... we have defined the projects we can cooperate on in the future." He said specific projects had not yet been chosen and a delegation of Kuwaiti experts would visit the Soviet Union to study possibilities. Moscow would in turn furnish Kuwait with information on potential projects, Dinkov said. Cooperation could encompass geophysical exploration, oilfield development and joint companies in all areas of the Soviet oil industry, he said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, Feb. 16, 1989		Swiss franc	343.6	347.1
Central Bank official rates		French franc	85.7	86.5
		Japanese yen (for 100)	425.0	429.4
Buy	Sell	Dutch guilder	258.5	261.0
U.S. dollar		Swedish crown	85.4	86.3
Pound Sterling	948.0	Italian lira (for 100)	39.8	40.2
Deutschmark	291.7	Belgian franc (for 100)	139.2	140.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.				
One Sterling	1.7768/78	U.S. dollar		
One U.S. dollar	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar		
	1.8345/55	Deutschmarks		
	2.0700/10	Dutch guilders		
	1.5570/80	Swiss francs		
	38.43/49	Belgian francs		
	6.2450/2500	French francs		
	134.2/1343	Italian lire		
	125.68/78	Japanese yen		
	6.2780/2830	Swedish crowns		
	6.6650/6700	Norwegian crowns		
	7.1350/1400	Danish crowns		
One ounce of gold	379.60/380.00	U.S. dollars		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY	The national share market closed easier as stocks struggled to regain losses from Thursday's 28-point slide. The All Ordinaries Index fell 2.9 to 1,448.3.
TOKYO	Share prices ended a roller-coaster day at a record closing high as dealing by securities houses, a wealth of available funds and bullish forecasts for certain sectors triggered buying. The Nikkei Index rose 89.81 to a record close at 32,173.39.
HONG KONG	Stocks ended a roller-coaster day higher as buyers returned to the market in late morning and afternoon. The Hang Seng Index closed 25.11 points higher at 3,106.25.
SINGAPORE	Profit-taking and lack of follow-through buying caused share prices to ease. But the Straits Times Industrial Index managed a marginal 0.10 point gain to 1,129.93.
BOMBAY	Share prices closed higher after a sedate start in moderate trading for the new account but the market undertone was cautious. Tata Steel rose five rupees to 1,186.25.
FRANKFURT	Shares closed mixed after a cautious session. The impending release of U.S. trade data for December heightened the market's uncertainty and kept investors on the sidelines. The Dax Index fell 2.82 to 1,315.09.
ZURICH	Prices closed steady to lower on fairly low turnover. Trading was very quiet before release of U.S. December trade data. The All-Share Swiss index fell 1.8 to 977.
PARIS	Share prices continued their decline by mid-session in fairly thin volume, with operators still awaiting U.S. December trade figures. The 50-share price indicator was 0.99 per cent down.
LONDON	Equities were well off their lows in late trading on the back of a small rise on Wall Street, which came after news of a U.S. December trade deficit in line with market forecasts. At 1540 GMT, the FTSE 100 was up 0.1 at 2033.9.
NEW YORK	Wall Street blue chips pushed higher although morning trading was generally slow. The Dow was ahead seven points at 2318 and gainers held an edge over declining issues.

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Sunday, February 26:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

Monday, February 27:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Taxpayers' seminar at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

Tuesday, February 28:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

For further information please call 644371 ext. 233.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Molby returns to Danish (soccer) squad

COPENHAGEN (R) — Midfielder Jan Molby, jailed for reckless driving last year, is back in the Danish soccer squad after an absence of five months. He has been named for a friendly international against Italy in Pisa Wednesday. Otherwise Denmark's trainer Sepp Piontek continues to re-build the team experimenting with new names. The line-up includes up-and-coming strikers such as Lars Elstrup, Brian Laudrup and Ulrik Moseby. Molby serviced six weeks in prison but has since regained his club place with English champions Liverpool.

Durocher in critical condition

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP) — Former baseball great Leo Durocher was listed in serious but stable condition at desert hospital early Friday, apparently after he was hurt in a traffic accident, authorities reported. "Yes, he is here," said Susan Pond, a nursing supervisor at the hospital, about 160 km east of Los Angeles. Pond declined to say exactly what injuries the former player, manager and coach had suffered. A police spokeswoman who declined to give her name said the accident occurred Wednesday morning in Palm Springs, but that further details were not immediately available.

Late Nigerian goal sinks S. Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Nigeria stole first honours in the world youth soccer championship Thursday by beating hosts Saudi Arabia 2-1 in the opening tie. A draw looked imminent until the 89th minute when the Saudi defence slipped up and let Christopher Omenhen drive home the winner. The unfancied Saudis had earlier shocked the three-times African champions when they went ahead in the 16th minute to the delight of a capacity 70,000 crowd in Riyadh's showpiece King Fahd international stadium.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦Q4 ♦AKQJ4 ♦JS ♦A73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—With this much strength opposite a one-over-one response, you would have jumped to two no trump to describe a balanced hand too strong for a one no trump opening bid. Since partner made a two-over-one response, jump to three no trump to show the same type of hand.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AKJ65 ♦AJ ♦J76 ♦742
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—With an opening bid facing an opening bid, you have the value for game. And you know your side has an eight-card fit—on this sequence partner must have a six-card heart suit. Therefore, your support is more than adequate. Jump to four hearts.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦83 ♦KQJ7 ♦AQ62 ♦AJ2
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♦ Dbl Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—You have a pretty good hand, but there is no need to get carried away. Bear in mind that you have forced partner to bid, and he might have done so on a yarborough. The most you can do is invite game by raising to three hearts—if partner has a smattering of points, he will go on to game.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦KJ10 ♦Q10 ♦Q9873 ♦J1082
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Partner is showing a 5-4-2-2 distribution and some 16-18 points. Not only are you maximum for your first response, but your honors in partner's suits must be upgraded. Anything other than a bid of three no trump should be treated with contempt.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦Q962 ♦KJ8 ♦AK1085 ♦45
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—For his jump-shift, partner can hardly have less than A-K and A-Q in his two suits. Therefore, it's simply a matter of whether partner has the ace of clubs as well. Bid four no trump to find out. (If your partner habitually jump shifts with bad suits, you have our sympathy.)

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦KJ73 ♦KJ65 ♦A7 ♦KJ9
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—Partner's two-club bid was Stayman, searching for a possible 4-4 fit. Since his bid of three no trump denies four spades, he must hold four cards in hearts. Correct to four hearts.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris

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HARRIS 2-16

"Stanley stinks at anything athletic. Once he was thrown by a horse — on a carousel."

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LONEV

DAMAR

GOBNAY

MESECH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: ONE'S

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: MANGY SUMAC DOUBLY GATHER

Answer: ALONE

Yesterday's Jumble: A man who is always asking for a loan is apt to be left this—ALONE

JUMBLE THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

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1. Sneed and Peckinpah

2. Snare

3. Bokeyn

4. Last

5. Dneed

6. Donkey

7. DeLuise's "—

Luck"

8. Credit might be the means to live like this.

9. One's

10. One's

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Khamenei offers 'reprieve' to 'Satanic Verses' author

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's President Ali Khamenei offered British author Salman Rushdie a possible reprieve Friday after Iranian religious leaders had ordered his death.

Rushdie, with a \$4 million bounty on his head, remained in hiding in Britain, accused by many Muslims of blasphemy against their religion in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Khamenei told thousands of worshippers chanting "death to Britain" at Friday prayers in Tehran: "This wretched man has no choice but to die because he has confronted a billion Muslims."

"Of course, he may repent and say 'I made a blunder' and apologise to Muslims and the imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini). Then it is possible that the people may pardon him."

The Netherlands cancelled a

trip to Iran by Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

Khamenei called the British reaction astonishing, Iran's official news agency, IRNA, said.

"Britain is acting as if it was ignorant — or maybe it really is. It is defending a man who cannot be defended," IRNA quoted him as saying.

West Germany told Iran Friday it sharply condemned the threat.

A Bonn statement said European Community foreign ministers would discuss the affair in Brussels Monday.

Khamenei in his sermon told Iranians to stay away from foreign embassies in Tehran.

"If you don't like British or American policies, the way (to express grievances) is not like some who go over embassy walls in an uncontrolled manner," IRNA quoted him as saying.



Salman Rushdie

"I bear witness that such an action is absolutely, absolutely harmful to Islam and Muslims and detrimental for the Islamic republic."

In Bombay, where Rushdie was born into an Indian Muslim family in 1947, police declared a state of alert after a threat that "Iranian Guards" would bomb British Airways planes and kill prominent Indians until the writer emerged from hiding.

Elsewhere there were new demands for Rushdie's death. Rightwing Muslims in Pakistan called for his extradition and execution, while fundamentalists in Bangladesh demanded he be hanged.

Welcoming the order by Khomeini for the killing of Rushdie, Ghafoor Ahmad, deputy chief of the rightwing Jamaat-i-Islami party told reporters Pakistan.

Iran should influence the United States, Britain and other countries to ban the book.

Similar protests were held in Hyderabad, Sukkur, Faisalabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Banu and Quetta, according to opposition leaders in the capital, Islamabad.

Warsaw ready to restore Solidarity

WARSAW (R) — Poland's communist rulers have agreed to restore the banned Solidarity trade union as a national organisation if it agrees to support economic and political reforms.

A joint government-Solidarity communiqué issued after talks on union pluralism Thursday said both sides agreed that the law should be amended to allow "trade unions freely to create their own organisational structure."

It said articles of a 1982 law which restricts unions to representing single branches of industry should be dropped.

The wording hinted that Solidarity might be allowed to reemerge as a mass national movement grouping different branches of industry and commerce in a structure similar to its form before its suppression under martial law in December 1981.

"It's exactly what we wanted to get," Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz said. The union based much of its strength on its nationwide structure when it challenged communist rule during its 16-month legal existence in 1980-81.

But Onyszkiewicz said the government had not made fully clear what conditions the union

would be asked to accept as part of a deal to pull Poland out of crisis.

The government has said it wants Solidarity to let its supporters take part in parliamentary elections this year and enter the communist-dominated parliament, but has not yet given the final details of its proposals.

The government, which invited Solidarity leader Lech Wałęsa to talks last August during the most serious pro-Solidarity strikes since 1981, wants to make a deal with the union that would contain labour unrest in a period of economic austerity.

The communiqué said Solidarity and other participants at the talks should "support planned political and economic reforms and eliminate social tensions in factories."

Wałęsa said earlier that the talks on stabilising the country were going too slowly.

He repeated warnings that some people might try to provoke a wave of strikes in April or May.

The official PAP news agency said four strikes were in progress late Thursday, compared with 13 Wednesday. Strikers want pay rises to compensate for inflation.

Column 10

Grandfather weds 12-year-old

RIYADH (R) — A 70-year-old Saudi Arabian has married a 12-year-old girl who is younger than some of his grandchildren, Okaz newspaper reported Wednesday. The daily said the couple wed Monday. The newspaper said the bride's grandfather objected to the marriage and refused to attend but her father approved.

Flag may flap — but quietly

LOS ANGELES (R) — A giant American flag may fly over Long Beach — but only if it does so quietly. The Long Beach City Council voted 7-2 Tuesday to allow Thomas Demski to fly the flag from his 41 metres flagpole as long as it does not violate the city's anti-noise laws. Neighbours had complained the flapping of the flag on windy nights kept them awake. "May the flag always fly high and free," Demski said.

Man who left dog gets car seized

UDINE, Italy (AP) — A man accused of abandoning his dog on the roadside had his car seized Wednesday by a local court. Judge Giorgio Cabrini, acting on a complaint from an animal protection society, ruled the car should be seized because it was used to commit a crime. The man, Ermanno Minghetti, 49, denied the charge, saying he only drove his dog out of town because it needed exercise.

Tactics to stop noisy concertgoers

CHICAGO (AP) — Some concertgoers advocate strong-arm tactics to stop whispering, coughing and rustling candy wrappers during the Schumann or Rachmaninoff. When asked the best means of eliminating such noise pollution, Los Angeles concertgoers came up with a variety of suggestions that included throwing offenders off the balcony or cutting their ears off. Their St. Louis counterparts suggested decapitation or banishment to Siberia, or better yet, to a rock concert. Whispering, coughing and sniffling — in that order — were listed as the most distracting noises in a recent study commissioned by a cough medicine company of 2,500 concertgoers at the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the St. Louis and Atlanta symphonies. Some other less drastic suggestions of dealing with noise-makers included equipping each seat with a red bulb that would light up each time an individual made excessive noise or having ushers hand offenders a note stating that they are annoying those around them. Tinkling of heavy jewelry was ranked last on the list of 10 annoyances.

Johnson, Griffith expecting child

TOKYO (R) — Japanese groups opposed to the state funeral of Emperor Hirohito announced Friday they planned to organise nearly 100 rallies across the country to coincide with the ceremony. Leaders of an alliance of 114 groups of Christians, women, students, workers and other citizens told reporters they opposed the Feb. 24 funeral because of Hirohito's responsibility for World War II. "To participate in the state funeral of Hirohito is the same thing as to participate in the funeral of Hitler or Mussolini," a statement said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mozambique appeals for aid

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique, ravaged by war and rural economic collapse, has issued a worldwide appeal for \$382 million to feed the third of its population which depends on foreign emergency relief. Cooperation Minister Jacinto Veloso told foreign aid agency officials Wednesday that he estimated 4.6 million people need aid, up from 3.3 million a year ago. Of these 1.7 million have fled their homes and are displaced and 2.9 million people were unable to feed themselves. The totals, prepared with the help of United Nations experts, do not include a further one million Mozambicans who have fled to neighbouring countries such as Malawi. Speaking to a Socialist International Conference in Harare Wednesday, President Joaquim Chissano said Mozambique was suffering a form of genocide at the hands of the right-wing rebel Mozambican National Resistance (MNR).

2 firms cleared in Marcos inquiry

MANILA (R) — A former Philippine cabinet minister affirmed Friday that five Japanese companies bribed ousted President Ferdinand Marcos to win road-building contracts but absolved two companies he had earlier named. Ex-public Works and Highways Secretary Baltazar Aquino told an anti-graft court that the Marubeni Corporation and C. Itoh and company were not involved in the alleged payoffs. The companies were among seven identified in an affidavit executed by Aquino in 1987 and submitted to the court in connection with a deposition hearing ahead of the filing of criminal charges against Marcos. In Tokyo, an official of the Ministry of Trade and Industry said it had no evidence that Japanese companies paid kickbacks to Marcos. "I had not collected anything from Marubeni and C. Itoh. They never supplied us with equipment. They had no contract with the highway (department)," the ailing Aquino, who is not related to President Corazon Aquino, said when asked by a prosecutor to affirm his affidavit.

Rallies against Hirohito funeral planned

TOKYO (R) — Japanese groups opposed to the state funeral of Emperor Hirohito announced Friday they planned to organise nearly 100 rallies across the country to coincide with the ceremony. Leaders of an alliance of 114 groups of Christians, women, students, workers and other citizens told reporters they opposed the Feb. 24 funeral because of Hirohito's responsibility for World War II. "To participate in the state funeral of Hirohito is the same thing as to participate in the funeral of Hitler or Mussolini," a statement said.

Kinshasa faces nuclear threat

KINSHASA (R) — The next heavy rainfall in the Zairean capital Kinshasa could topple a nuclear research centre and trigger a catastrophe, national radio said Thursday. The radio said there could be a Chernobyl-like disaster if the city's regional Centre for Nuclear Studies was brought down by land shifts. However, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna said an accident on that scale would be impossible. The 1986 explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Soviet Union was the world's worst nuclear accident.

Discovery in AIDS research reported

NEW YORK (R) — Scientists have made a discovery that could accelerate the search for a drug to combat the AIDS virus, the pharmaceuticals group Merck and Company reported Thursday. Merck scientists have identified the three-dimensional structure of an enzyme in the virus, the first time the structure of any enzyme or protein of the AIDS virus has been mapped. Merck said in a report published in the British scientific journal Nature. The discovery gives the company a target in its development of a drug therapy for the disease. Merck said. But it also said no anti-AIDS drug had been discovered and that it often takes a long time between basic research discoveries and breakthroughs in drug development.

Hudson's lover gets \$14.5 million

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rock Hudson was guilty of "outrageous conduct" in concealing his AIDS diagnosis from his homosexual lover, a jury ruled Wednesday in awarding him \$14.5 million from the late actor's estate. Marc Christian, 35, won \$3.5 million more than he had sought in the case, regarded as a precedent-setting action and watched closely by lawyers. No similar case has had a like result when the plaintiff has not developed AIDS. Hudson, the handsome Hollywood leading man who kept his homosexuality a closely guarded secret, died Oct. 5, 1985, at age 58, a few months after his battle with AIDS became public knowledge. Christian, who smiled when the verdict was read, has consistently tested negative for the AIDS virus, but claimed he was entitled to compensation for the emotional distress he suffered in fear that he would develop the disease.

France building blast claims 15

TOULON, France (R) — At least 15 people were killed and 36 injured when a 200-year-old building in the centre of Toulon collapsed after an explosion Wednesday, police said. Sniffer dogs were still at work more than 24 hours after the blast as rescue-workers tried to establish that no one was left under the rubble.

Tambo denies split with Mandela's wife

HARARE (R) — African National Congress (ANC) President Oliver Tambo said Thursday the ANC leadership was trying to solve the row over alleged brutal conduct by Winnie Mandela's bodyguards in Soweto.

Tambo denied in a television interview that there was any friction between him and the wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Anti-apartheid groups in South Africa denounced Mrs. Mandela Thursday and said they wanted nothing more to do with her.

Mandela's bodyguards, known until recently as the Mandela United Football Club, are under investigation for the alleged abduction of four youths. The body of one of them was identified Monday and police have started murder inquiries.

"We just have to get that club disbanded, which now has happened," Tambo said. "The original idea was of course good, for her own protection, to give the children something to do, to keep

them off the streets, but it went wrong somewhere."

Tambo and Nelson Mandela recently ordered Winnie to disband the team, but community leaders in Soweto do not believe she obeyed their orders.

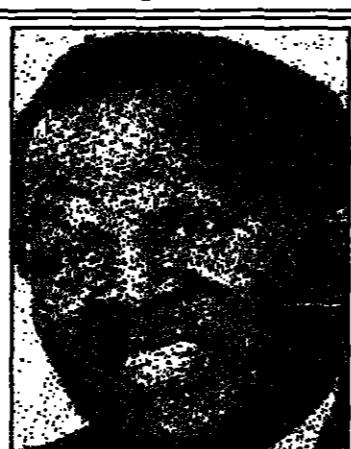
The attack on Mrs. Mandela could open the floodgates of criticism from all quarters of the black community which have held back out of respect for the Mandela name or for fear of retaliation.

"We are outraged by the reign of terror that the team has been associated with," said a statement read out by activist Murphy Morobe at a Johannesburg news conference.

"Had Stompie and his three colleagues not been abducted by Mrs. Mandela's 'football team,' he would have been alive today."

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu told reporters in Cape Town: "It is a very sad day for us."

He added: "The affair was a great worry to us in that it drag-



Oliver Tambo

ged a great name through the mud and we could not afford it in our struggle for justice and peace."

Sources close to the family said Mrs. Mandela had been shunned by dozens of former associates in the anti-apartheid movement. "She is without any friends," one said.

Mrs. Mandela has not responded to the latest attack but in the past she has sought to fend off criticism by saying the team had been disbanded.

The real James Bond dies — He spied on birds, not villains

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The real James Bond has died peacefully of old age with never a fear of being blown up, poisoned or tortured by a horde of arch-villains who threaten Western civilisation.

The real James Bond, unlike his fictional namesake, never toted a gun and never drank a Martini that was shaken, not stirred. He spied on birds, not beautiful female enemy agents, for a living.

Bond, 89, whose death this week was revealed by his family Thursday, was one of the world's most famous ornithologists.

His name was borrowed by Ian Fleming, the creator of the James Bond series, because he was looking for a masculine Anglo-Saxon name for the hero of his tongue-in-cheek spy novels.

Fleming, a former journalist

and news executive, was a bird-watcher by avocation with a home in Jamaica. By chance he stumbled on a book there about the birds of the Caribbean written by Bond, who was the world expert on birds of that region.

As Fleming explained in a letter to Bond's wife Mary: "This brief, unromantic, Anglo-Saxon and yet very masculine name was just what I needed."

He apologised for any inconvenience his borrowing might have caused the distinguished scholar and told Mrs. Bond:

"In return, I can offer you unlimited use of the name Ian Fleming for any purposes you might think fit."

"Perhaps one day your husband will discover a particularly horrible species of bird which he would like to christen in an insulting fashion by calling it Ian

World's most complicated watch unveiled in Geneva

GENEVA (AP) — One of its 184 tiny wheels completes a single revolution in five years. Another wheel takes a century to turn once and after 400 years a lever is moved to prevent the watch's calendar from skipping the leap year date.

It is the first timepiece to calculate the date of Easter. Almost in passing, the makers mention that it also features a celestial chart showing the Milky Way and 2,800 northern hemisphere stars.

Patek Philippe, the prestigious Geneva company which unveiled the pocket watch this week on its 150th anniversary, is not likely to be contested in its claim that the "Calibre 89" is the world's most complicated watch.

After a team of watchmakers worked more than five years to design the watch, and another four years to make and assemble its 1,728 parts, the Calibre 89 finally was unveiled Feb. 8 and then sent on a world tour.

"At some points, we were

able to take into account that a leap

year is skipped at the turn of most centuries by the Gregorian calendar, introduced in 1582. Only the century years that are exactly divisible by 400, like 2000 and 2400, have a Feb. 29.

To keep it "up to date," the complicated mechanism makes one wheel turn once every five years, triggering a 20-tooth "century wheel" to move one notch. A peg gives that wheel an extra push every 100 years, thus disengaging the calendar mechanism on three out of four century years to skip the leap year. A lever reengages the mechanism after 400 years.

Calibre 89 has 33 functions, 19 more than the firm's "Packard" watch of 1927, which Patek Philippe bought back last year with a two-million-swiss-franc (\$1.3 million) price tag.

Calibre 89's features include a daily display of the sunrise and sunset, carillon chimes ringing the hour and half-hour, and "power reserve" indicators showing when rewinding is needed. The mainspring can run 30 hours.

But the makers' pride is the watch's "perpetual secular calendar."

He said the World Bank would provide money to help tackle industrial waste and cut emissions that damage the world's ozone layer. "If industry has to re-

equip, we believe the bank should be there to help," he said.

Conable, on a four-day visit to the Philippines, said toxic waste could best be dealt with before neglect created a major clean-up crisis. "(It) should be a priority concern for all of us," he declared.

"Our objective is to make sure that the developing countries we assist can take charge of adequately treating and disposing of any toxic emissions they produce," he added.

"Where existing capacity is not equal